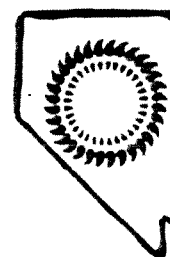


# NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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STATE PUBLICATIONS

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May was an unusually mild and dry month Statewide with temperature departures from 4 to 9 degrees above normal. In fact, at Las Vegas it was the warmest May since records began at the Airport locations 60 years ago. The 81.6 degree average for the month was 7.6 degrees above normal, with a record 25 days of 90° or above and an average of only 15 such days. Some other May warmth records were set at Mina where Gene Gates recorded 7.7° above normal for the month in a 108 year record, Wyatt Owens at Smith was 6.1 degrees above normal in a 90 year long record, and the Virginia City Fire Department measured a 7 degree than warmer month, with the Honey Lake Fleming Fish and Game Unit 6.5 degrees above normal.

Extreme temperatures were not near records, as the Lake Mead - Colorado River Area reached near the 110° level, with Elko County points such as Boies Ranch (13) and Charleston (15) failing to approach the -7° at Pine Valley in 1990. Fannie Parker also had 14° this month at Manhattan in Nye County.

Precipitation was sorely lacking at most locations with only isolated areas with any rain to speak of. This was the fourth straight month of below normal amounts in most of Nevada with record dryness following the record wetness in December and January. One of the exceptions was the heaviest rain in 12 years reported by Dick Engle, when Goldpoint experienced .87" in 25 minutes during a May 18th thunderstorm. This represents almost 1/4 of the annual average.

Despite the dry weather Water Year (Oct. 1, 1996 - June 1, 1997) precipitation is still above normal due to a record wet December - January, ranging from 125-140% of normal in the Far West and to less than 2/3 of normal in the South. Upstream areas above Lake Mead are still above normal. Snowpacks that were so far above normal are now below normal in most areas due to the warm and dry weather.

The wettest reporting site in the Silver State this May was San Jacinto where Dave Secrist measured a wet 2.19". Mountain City Ranger Station had 2.18" with Ruth at 1.49", and Jarbidge 1.39.

Evaporation was well above normal with 9.30" at UNR, 7.65" at Honey Lake, 7.66" at Rye Patch, 8.87" at Fallon, 7.73" at Shoshone, and 6.28 at Minden.

NOTE: We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Frank (Shorty) Prunty, lifelong resident of Northern Elko County and Charleston weather observer. Our sincerest sympathies to Marge Prunty and her family.

John W. James  
State Climatologist